

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00582 030753Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0582

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PRECEDENCE ADDED)

USNATO FOR PENDLETON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, GW, NO, UR, FI
SUBJ: FRG PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY

1. IN MEETING WITH FONMIN FRYDENLUND AND UNDER SECRETARY STOLTENBERG
AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 2, AMBASSADOR ENCOUNTERED EXTREME SENSITIVITY
ON SUBJECT OF WEST GERMAN TROOP PARTICIPATION IN NORWEGIAN
EXERCISES.

2. FRYDENLUND VEHEMENTLY DEFENDED FRG TROOP DECISION WHICH HE
ATTRIBUTED PRIMARILY TO FINNISH PRESIDENT KOKKONEN'S
DIRECT INTERVENTION AND TO A LESSER EXTENT TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS. DRYDENLUND SAID THAT THE GON WOULD RESIST USG
PRESSURE ON THIS SCORE WITH STRENGTH EQUAL TO THAT WITH WHICH
THEY WOULD RESIT PRESSURE FROM USSR.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GON IS SURPRISED BY THE EXTENT OF
CRITICISM THEY ARE GETTING DROM CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES HERE.
FRYDENLUND CLEARLY FEELS THAT HIS PRESTIGE, AS WELL AS THAT OF
PRIMINISTER NORDLI AND DEFMINISTER HANSEN, IS ON THE LINE.
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4. AT THIS POINT, OVERLY VIGOROUS CRITICISM RISKS (EVEN
IN THE NATO CONTEXT) BACKING OUR THREE STAUNCHEST NATO
SUPPORTERS HERE INTO A CORNER. WE RECOMMEND THEREFORE
THAT THE GERMAN TROOP ISSUE BE HANDLED IN A VERY LOW
KEY MANNER AT THE FRIDAY MEETING. LERNER

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